

name of the Lord." "Whether we eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." True, indeed, that God intends to bring us to our heavenly home, and that we must ever have that home before us as our goal, but He also means to make this life, with all its daily toil, better and nobler and happier for us by his presence, as our great Commander.

Teach them that the prayer-meeting, the Sunday school and the Young Peoples meetings are the training schools where we learn this religion by practicing it; learn to serve God by serving him and witnessing for him. We must attend the prayer-meeting that our spirituality may be strengthened and built up. No Christian can long retain his zeal in the Christian life, if he habitually absents himself from the prayer-meeting of the church. And, on the other hand, any church member who conscientiously attends the prayer services cannot fail to become interested and, by and by, will begin to take part in them, first perhaps by a verse of scripture, then a word of testimony and by and by will be able to falter a short prayer, gaining strength each time until, before he fairly realizes it, he will be an earnest, faithful worker for the Master and a pillar in the church.

So in the Sunday-school we gain the knowledge that is able to make us wise unto salvation; and learn to wield the sword of the spirit with power. The Sunday-school is not merely for the children, but for the older ones as well. True enough every child connected with the church should be in the Sunday-school, but they should not go alone, but should be accompanied by the parents and older brothers and sisters. Every church member should be found in his place in the school every Lords Day; the more experienced ones as teachers and officers, the others as pupils. An interesting Sunday-school means a live church to-day with a strong foundation for the church of to-morrow. Not only teach the members that their place is in the Sunday-school, but that this one hour devoted to Bible study is not enough but encourage home study as well, and urge the formation of special classes for Bible study. For nothing will so stimulate an interest in church work as a thorough knowledge of the Bible. Especially is this true of the Brethren Church, for the more we study, the more we are convinced that this is the best church in existence, and if we believe it to be the best, then we will want to work for it and to extend its borders.

Teach them to take an intelligent interest in the young people's work, for the fostering of this movement means the

building up of the church in one of the most substantial and enduring ways. In many places the young people are left to care for themselves, they have not the help and sympathy of the older ones and often become discouraged and the church is thus weakened.

Another point to be emphasized is the church literature. It is impossible to take an intelligent interest in the church at large, unless we are informed concerning its prosperity. Often when our little congregation is not flourishing as we would like, we get disheartened and think everything is going wrong, when a perusal of the EVANGELIST would tell us of the victories in other places, and we would be encouraged to go on with the work in our own little field, with a stronger faith in Him who has promised us the victory. Do you remember how at one time Elijah became discouraged over the persecutions of his enemies and prayed to die, crying unto God, "They have slain all thy prophets, and I only am left." And God told him there were yet seven thousand left alive who were true to Him. So Elijah was strengthened for the work before him. Likewise we often feel that we are laboring alone, but our church papers are the means in God's hands of letting us know that there are yet many thousand who are true to God and have not bowed to Baal. So by all means urge upon the members the claims of the EVANGELIST, for thus will the members gain an interest in the work and this very important branch of the church work will be built up.

The business meeting, too, needs attention. In many places they are not conducted as they should be, so the members do not enjoy them and so stay away. The business meeting is not the place to air the pet grievances of each individual member, but a place to talk over seriously and thoughtfully the business affairs of the church and as such should be made one of the most interesting as well as the most profitable meetings of the church. So the pastor who would build up an intelligent interest in his church work will look well to the character of the business meetings, and see if they cannot be improved so that the members will be glad to attend and take part in their deliberations.

Another thing requiring careful attention is the financial interests of the church. Encourage each member to contribute something, however little towards the support of the church. It is far better to have small contributions from each member, than contributions however large from only two or three. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." We will feel a deeper interest in our church if we have given something however little

towards its support. We will feel that we are partners in it and so of course will want to see it prosper.

I have given but a few of the things to be done to bring our church up to the highest standard of the ideal; but each church worker who is trying to stimulate an interest in his church will have to plan his work and work his own plans prayerfully and earnestly in order to be successful. For we can only gain suggestions from others for what will work admirably in one place, will not do at all in others.

But in all our endeavors let us remember the source of all wisdom and go forth to the work relying on the promise, "Lo I am with you always." God with us! To be our ever watchful friend, our never failing guide; to support us in our weakness, to guard us in our dangers, to defend us in our temptations, to console us in our sorrows, to gladden and brighten all the dreariness of common drudgery, and make every act of service an offering consecrated to Him.

THE OBJECT OF THE DIVINE SELF-REVELATION. No. 2.

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A QUESTION.

It is perhaps very appropriate to begin the present paper with a very easily understood, tho perchance not so easily answered, question. Can man know God? Is he so constituted as to be able to apprehend the Divine Being? This question is not to be lightly passed by. It is fundamental. It is as well ennobling and life-giving when thought out.

Briefly it may be said that man is an intelligent creature. That he possesses now in his present state *energized* powers and capacities of stupendous potentiality and amazing range, and prophecies of latent mental and spiritual attributes which when unfolded attest him divine.

In this, namely, man's nature, powers, and capacities it seems to me the answer to the question can be read in the affirmative.

It may be farther said that man is a religious being, that he aspires to and has longings for eternal life and that these intuitive intimations can only be met in a reliable knowledge of God.

ANOTHER QUESTION.

Notwithstanding man's capacity to know God it is a pertinent question to ask farther, can man find God, *in order that he may know Him*, unassisted by God Himself? Or it may be better to put the question in the form of Zophar in his contention with Job: "Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out